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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/614,276	07/12/2000	Wolfgang Theimer	473-009548-US(PAR)	2128

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EXAMINER

WOO, ISAAC M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/614,276

Applicant(s)

THEIMER ET AL.

Examiner

Isaac M Woo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07/12/2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

1. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyazawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,139, hereinafter, "Miyazawa").

With respect to claim 1, Miyazawa discloses the method for inputting data (21, FIG. 2 and col. 5, lines 27-31) into a system,

in response to an input by a user (col. 6, lines 14-16), one or more terms, which are appropriate as possible for this input, are determined as identified terms, see (col.8, lines 46-57 and col. 9, lines 48-59)

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confidence value is defined for each of these identified terms, see (col. 8, lines 37-67 to col. 9, lines 1-43) and

the terms associated with an input are dealt with further, taking account of their confidence values, see (col. 8, lines 37-67 to col. 9, lines 1-43).

With respect to claim 2, Miyazawa discloses the confidence value a value from an interval between number, preferably 1, corresponding to reliable identification, and that for an input which can not be identified, corresponding to 0, including these values, see (FIG. 5B and col. 8, lines 63-67 to col. 9, lines 1-4).

With respect to claim 3, Miyazawa discloses the identified terms are announced and/or displayed to a user as a system response, starting with the term identified as being the most reliable, on the basis of their confidence values, see (col. 9, lines 34-67 to col. 10, lines 1-32).

With respect to claim 4, Miyazawa discloses each identified term, those data records which are appropriate for the identified terms are looked for in a list of stored data records, see (FIG. 4A-C; col. 6, lines 51-67 to col. 7, lines 1-46 and col. 10, lines 18-41).

With respect to claim 5, Miyazawa discloses when data being input, the input is completed by a data record appropriate for the identified term, using a form-based dialogue structure, see (col. 10, lines 66-67 to col. 11, lines 1-34).

With respect to claim 6, Miyazawa discloses that the data input is completed in response to a request signal, see (col. 11, lines 11-34).

With respect to claim 7, Miyazawa discloses that the number of data records found can be reduced by inputting one or more further terms, see (FIG. 4A-C; col. 6, lines 51-67 to col. 7, lines 1-46 and col. 8, lines 46-57).

With respect to claim 8, Miyazawa discloses each stored data record is assigned a probability value, which describes the probability of the data record being used again, see (col. 13, lines 9-26).

With respect to claim 9, Miyazawa discloses the probability value for a data record corresponds to the ratio of the number of times this data record has been used to the total number of times all the data records have been used, see (col. 9, lines 12-43).

With respect to claim 10, Miyazawa discloses that an announcement/display sequence of the data record is defined as a function of their probability value and the confidence value of the associated term, see (col. 9, lines 1-67 to col. 10, lines 32).

With respect to claim 11, Miyazawa discloses that the identified terms are announced and/or displayed individually and successively, or as a selection list for confirmation or selection, see (col. 8, lines 37-67 to col. 9, lines 1-43).

With respect to claim 12, Miyazawa discloses Miyazawa discloses if the input is a voice input, the confidence value is established in the normal manner for voice recognition, see (col. 8, lines 7-27 and col. 9, lines 1-11).

With respect to claim 13, Miyazawa discloses that the voice input by a user is first of all subjected to speaker identification, and in that the subsequent voice recognition process is carried out taking account of the result of the speaker identification, see (col. 1, lines 31-42).

With respect to claim 14, Miyazawa discloses that the input is made via an alphanumeric input device, with the terms entered in this way first of all being assigned the confidence value for reliable identification, see (FIG. 4A-D and col. 6, lines 51-67 to col. 7, lines 1-60).

With respect to claim 15, Miyazawa discloses that the incorrectly alphanumerically input term, which has already frequently been input incorrectly in a

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manner specific to a particular user, is assigned a lower confidence value as a function of input-specific error statistics, see (col. 9, lines 1-43).

With respect to claim 16, Miyazawa discloses that the incorrectly alphanumerically input term, which has already frequently been input incorrectly in a manner specific to a particular user, is automatically corrected, with corrected term being assigned a confidence value which is lower than the confidence value for reliable identification, see (FIG. 4-5; col. 7, lines 11-60 and col. 8, lines 28-67 to col. 9, lines 1-43).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyazawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,070,139, hereinafter, "Miyazawa") in view of Asija (U.S. Patent No. 4,523,331).

With respect to claim 16, Miyazawa does not disclose that the input is an image input. However, Asija discloses that the input is an image input, see (FIG. 1 and col. 2, lines 48-67 to col. 3, lines 1-16). Based upon Asija, therefore, it would have been obvious a person having ordinary skill in the art to include image input, recognition and storing system into the system of Miyazawa for voice input, recognition and storing system. Because it would thus be beneficial to combine the image and voice input, recognition and storing system that can automate the digital computer to handle any types (image and voice) of information concurrently.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hunt et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,499,288) discloses system for voice recognition system.

Goldhor et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,231,670) discloses system for generating text from voice input.

Rossides (U.S. Patent No. 5,454,063) discloses system for automatic speech recognizer.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isaac M Woo whose telephone number is (703) 305-0081. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7201 for regular communications and (703) 308-6606 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

IMW
June 25, 2002



JEAN M. CORRIELUS
PRIMARY EXAMINER